

Title: YES-II Monthly Report – January 1 - 31, 2021

Assignment Description	Youth Entrepreneurship Support (YES-II) Program
Date	January 31, 2021
Schedule Baseline	Attached
Submitted by	Mr. Sultan Maqsood Fazel (QRTDW-Ludin Consulting JV)
Submitted to	GIZ-ESIP

Accomplishments and Progress of the Activities:

Activities	Description	Status
Online Training in Entrepreneurship and Leadership	<p>The two-week Leadership and Entrepreneurship online training completed on January 7, 2021. During the entrepreneurship training, the trainees were guided through critical ethical behavior models for professional life, organizational vision and values, factors affecting social influence as key objective of effective leadership and the key characteristics of an entrepreneur.</p> <p>The Classes constituted presentations on product development and market assessment by 12 groups consisting of 5 engineers each. The 12 business ideas were developed, which included ventures such as establishment of companies in the field of PV power for residential and commercial customers, solar irrigation supply and installation companies, testing-repair-maintenance company for solar systems, design and project management service company for solar projects, architectural and engineering design company with focus on energy efficiency, lobbying and engineering company for energy efficiency and other similar ideas. Detailed market assessments for each venture idea were prepared and also presented that covered market sizing, market segmentation, competitive analysis, required initial investment and revenue generation estimates as well as detailed social, economic, political, legal, technological, and environmental assessment of the market with emphasis on the product portfolio.</p>	Completed

	<p>The instructors continued to facilitate interactive and participatory sessions throughout the training program. They constantly encouraged the trainees to actively participate in the classes and asked them to put forward their unresolved questions so that they can help them resolve their pending issues/questions.</p> <p>The training sessions had thus gone very well and neither the instructors nor the trainees faced any issue with the e-learning platforms throughout the training program. Some of the top assignments were also uploaded in the platform including the links for lessons.</p>	
Completion of Online Training in Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Entrepreneurship and Leadership	<p>Thus the eight weeks of online training program for Youth Entrepreneurship Support (YES II) was successfully completed in all three areas of YES-II training program i.e. renewable energy, energy efficiency and entrepreneurship and leadership.</p> <p>The RE trainees had completed a comprehensive six-week online training on Renewable Energy. The training was divided into four components 1) Solar Power 2) Solar Water Pump 3) Solar Water Heater and 4) PVsyst. In each component of the training the following topics were taught in details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentals of Solar Power, Solar Water Pump and Solar Water Heater • Economics of the solar systems including solar water pumping and solar heating system • Site Assessment and Feasibility Study • System Sizing • System Design • System Sourcing • System Installation • SCADA Monitoring System • Testing and Commissioning • System Maintenance • PVsyst and its use for load assessment • Etc. <p>The EE trainees had also completed a six-week comprehensive online training to improve Energy</p>	Completed

	<p>Efficiency in buildings. The training was focused on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basics of Energy Efficiency in Buildings • Flow of Energy in Buildings, Indicators for Energy Use in Buildings • Measures to Enhance Energy Efficiency • Energy Audit of Buildings • Water Use Analysis in Buildings • Certifying Energy Efficiency in Buildings. <p>After the first six weeks of the training, the EE and RE trainees were divided into four groups who completed a two-weeks online training on Entrepreneurship and Leadership with the main focus on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics of Professional Life • Leadership – The Vision and Values • Identifying Business Opportunities • Market Assessment • Preparing Business Plans Including Financial Modeling • Organizational Development <p>After the training sessions were accomplished for all the three areas, the Consultant carried out two online evaluations. The first evaluation was prepared for RE and EE training program. The second evaluation was prepared for entrepreneurship and leadership training program. The outcome of the evaluations will be incorporated in the final report.</p>	
Monitoring of the Online Training	<p>The Consultant team along with GIZ's representative continuously monitored the training sessions and provided feedbacks and supports when needed. The instructors were available to respond to any questions posed by the trainees. The program support team was also available for 30 minutes chat after the actual training session ended in order to support the trainees for their project assignments. These chat-room's interactions enabled most of the trainees to overcome some of the problems and challenges that they had faced for completion of their project assignments.</p>	Completed

	Since the lessons were recorded and were uploaded in the e-platform, thus these training sessions can be re-visited at any time and can be monitored whenever needed.	
Weekly Online Training Update	The Consultant provided GIZ with weekly briefings and updates for the training progresses and achievements. The updates cover all aspects of the training including the attendance, trainees' participation, training evaluations, project timeline tracking and any other critical information needed. The last weekly update was provided on January 9, 2021.	Completed
Class Attendance	We have had excellent class attendance by all trainees throughout the training program. Overall, we have had 99% class attendance until the end of the online training program which was formally ended on January 7, 2021. This clearly showed the level of interest and enthusiasm of the trainees to follow this wonderful program.	Completed
Internet Connectivity	We have not witnessed any major internet connectivity during this report period. There were some minor disruptions faced but it had not impacted the quality of the training sessions.	Completed
Intern's Mapping Exercise	The Consultant completed the mapping exercise to identify host institutions both for RE and EE internship components of the YES-II program. GIZ also agreed with the list of institution identified for placement of the interns. Below are the list of host institutions:	
	Renewable Energy	Energy Efficiency
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alokozia Company 2. Peace Bridge Services 3. Afghan Wind Solar 4. European Technology Company 5. Barg Engineering & Co 6. QRTDW 7. Bashiri Limited 8. Omid Khorshid Noor Solar 9. Ekhlas Sultani Trading Co 10. Vista RE Services Ltd 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Line Architects 2. New al-Seqa Construction Company 3. Afaq Construction Company 4. Power Global Construction Company 5. Shams Un Nahar 6. GreenTech Engineering 7. Destiny Consulting

	<p>11. Kam Energy 12. Expert Solar Afghanistan 13. Alef Technology 14. Novin Simia Company 15. Dorokhshan Solar 16. Power Global 17. Four Corner Consulting 18. Afghanite 19. MRRD/ASERD 20. 22. DABS</p>	<p>8. Max Construction and Engineering Company 9. Al-Madina 10. ANSA 11. DABS 12. National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA)</p>	
Meeting with Host Institutions and Signing MoUs for Internship Program	<p>The Consultant met with all these host institutions and discussed the internship program including the workplan, supervision mechanism and internship rotation plan.</p> <p>The Consultant signed MoUs with all these institutions except with the Government institutions. In consultation with the Government institutions, the Consultant introduced the interns through an introduction letter. The reason the Government institutions were not interested to sign the MoUs because they thought it would bind them to go through lots of paper work including channeling the issue through administrative civil reform process.</p>	Ongoing	
Exposure Visit to Kandahar	<p>The Consultant organized the exposure visit to Kandahar from January 11–13, 2021. The exposure was successfully completed as per the plan which was already prepared by the Consultant and approved by GIZ.</p> <p>The exposure visit was a very productive and a career transforming knowledge for all the YES-II trainees. The trainees visited each component of this mega project accordingly to the plan. The trainees appreciated the site visit and considered it as an extra ordinary experience of their career and a real life example of a functional and successful project. They understood how a large solar power system operates and runs and what the key components of the project are. The trainees were also provided with detailed single line diagrams and other important information for the Kandahar 15MW solar plant.</p> <p>The Consultant also scheduled a short exposure session for EE trainees to visit the Aino Mina in the second day of the Kandahar visit. Aino Mina is one of the best cities ever</p>	Completed	

	<p>built in Afghanistan which entails all the urban development and architectural standards. The purpose of this visit was to have the EE students experience a different architectural dynamics of a city.</p> <p>The Consultant also provided an opportunity for Energy Efficiency trainees to listen to and learn from the experiences and insights of Eng. Hamid Helmandi, the mastermind, developer and initiator of the beautiful and one-of-a-kind real estate development project, the Aino Mina in Kandahar. Mr. Helmandi is a senior advisor to President Ashraf Ghani and a significant entrepreneur and businessman. The Consultant invited Mr. Helmandi for two hours virtual meeting in order to transfer his urban development knowledge to the EE trainees and how they managed to apply the concept of energy efficiency in most of this housing development project. The Young graduate engineers hailing from the civil engineering and architecture fields were able to ask questions, seek insight, ask for advice and guidance and benefit from the experiences of Mr. Helmandi.</p> <p>The Consultant would also like to offer its appreciation to Zularistan for facilitating the exposure visit within the 15MW solar power plant.</p> <p>After the exposure program were completed for all the three areas, the Consultant carried out an online evaluations of the exposure visit and its outcome will be incorporated in the final report.</p>	
Internship Program	<p>The Consultant arranged a round of orientations for all the trainees in QRTDW office on January 18, 2021. The trainees were invited in three groups of 20 persons. The purpose of these round of orientations were to train the interns about the internship workplan, the Consultant's expectation from the trainees when they start their internship as interns, the host institutions' expectation and how they need to deal with situation when they face a problem, the Pass it On (PiO) program and the monthly report that they have to prepare and submit to the Consultant.</p>	Ongoing

	<p>YES-II program has formally introduced 40 Renewable Energy and 20 Energy Efficiency trainees to the above mentioned host institutions.</p> <p>They started their first week of internship program in these host institutions on January 19, 2021. The first week of the internship program went well as planned. The Consultant's mentor team started planning their mentorship to ensure the interns follow the work plan and engage in day to day operations of the designated companies.</p> <p>The YES-II internship program will continue for four months and a rotation will take place after the first two months of the internship. The purpose behind this rotation is to enable the trainees to gain inter-organizational experiences in multiple entities which are relevant to their fields.</p>	
Business Plans and Preparation for YES-II business summit	Over the coming three months, the student groups will develop detailed business plans for their respective venture ideas and present them to a plenary of YES-II consultants and GIZ staffers, so that the top three business plans can be selected for presentation at the business summit. The instructors of YES-II provided them with adequate guidance and instructions to start their business development plan. The instructors and YES-II support team will continue to engage with them to complete their business plans at least two weeks before the internship program ends.	Ongoing
YES-I and YES-II Scripts for Success Stories	The Consultant prepared two scripts for both YES-I and YES-II. The scripts were submitted to GIZ for their approval. The scripts will be the basis for prepare the success stories for YES programs.	Pending approval
Social Media and (Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.)	The Consultant continued to keep the social media updated with valuable posts and other information to keep the viewers informed of YES-II program, new developments in areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency and also updated the applicants about the next level of engagement in the YES-II program.	Ongoing

UPDATE SCHEDULE

[illegible]